15th March 1955]

Smallpox in Badagara.

* 1351 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many cases of smallpox attack occurred in Badagara Panchayat area, North Malabar, and how many died, in each of the three months ending with 31st December 1954 ; and

(*b*) when was the first attack reported and what measures were adopted by the Government to combat the epidemic?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The number of attacks of smallpox and deaths in each of the three months ending with 31st December 1954 in Badagara Panchayat Board is—

	Attacks.	Deaths.
October 1954	Nil	Nil
November 1954 ..	11	1
December 1954 ..	119	37

" (*b*) The first attack occurred on 10th November 1954 but was actually reported to the health authorities on 18th November 1954.

Prompt control and preventive measures such as intensive vaccination, disinfection of houses and infected materials, isolation and treatment of cases, etc., were taken."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is it not a fact that the arrangements that were made were quite inadequate, that there was even lack of lymph and that the persons employed were utterly not in a position to cope with the situation? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" An intensive vaccination and re-vaccination campaign was carried on. The Director of Public Health, and two Assistant Directors of Public Health visited the place. An additional staff was employed. I may say that the panchayat board passed a resolution at its meeting held on the 3rd January 1955 recording its greatfulness for the help and services rendered by the Public Health staff in checking the spread of the epidemic."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know whether the Government instructed the concerned local body to arrange for isolation wards or reception wards in order that the cases of epidemic might be isolated from the rest, and if so, with what result? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Steps for isolation may have been taken. I have no information about it. All that I can say is that the eplidemic has now been brought completely under control."